

Remarks

Claims 16, 18, 19, and 21 to 28 are now pending. Claims 16 and 22 have been amended. Above, any rewritings to claims 16 and 22 are shown by underlining (additions) and square-bracketing (deletions). No new matter has been added.

Claims 15, 17 and 20 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a continuation/divisional including those claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response and amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 18, 19, 21 and 23 to 28.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 16 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations/features of the base claim(s). In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants amended claims 16 and 22 to be independent claims.

Claims 15, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,418,881 to Hart et al.; (the "Hart

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reference⁹). While Applicants do not believe that the Hart reference anticipates claims 15, 17 and 20, those claims have been cancelled from the above-identified application. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation/divisional containing those claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application be allowed, having claims 16, 18, 19, 21 to 28.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the rejections of claims 15, 17, and 20, as well as the objections to claims 16 and 22 have been clarified. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

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Respectfully submitted,
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